

A mad dog got loose in the Western district this morning and bit several people.

turned up Queen's Road towards No. 7 Station. In its career the dog bit, as far as is known to the Police, four men and one girl. The noise and cries of the people were heard by Inspector Swanston and the Constable on duty at West Point, and they both rushed out with iron cross-bars. The Inspector got up to the dog and hit it a blow on the back of the neck, which stunned it. He and the constable then made

short work with the brute. They next inquired after those who had been wounded and sent the four men and the girl to the Government Civil Hospital, where their wounds were dressed. Some of the wounds are said to be rather severe. The dog is said to belong to some one in Queen's Road West, but the owner has not yet been discovered.

ther perplexing by a recent decision of Mr. Wodehouse, was certainly not elucidated in any way by a decision given by him to-day. An interpreter at West Point Station took a rickshaw at the Stag Hotel and was taken to No. 7 Station. He paid the coolie 5 cents, but the latter demanded 7. The interpreter refused to pay, and finding that the

coolie had not a license, had him arrested on a charge of plying a "ricksha" for hire without a license and demanding more than his legal fare. It appeared from the evidence that the coolie took 20 minutes to cover the distance. His Worship therefore only found the first part of the charge proved, holding evidently that because the coolie had taken more than a quarter of an hour to run a distance which might be covered in less than 10 minutes by any ordinary

5 cents. This is putting a distinct premium on laziness, and coolies when they see they can get double fare for loitering, will take care not to run fast.

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The summary of the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament since the Sixties

The Suez Canal negotiations have been satisfactorily concluded so far as the point of difference with France are concerned.

The estimates for the year provide for improving the defence of the various ports and coaling stations. It is intended to provide a special squadron for the protection of the commerce of the Australian Colonies, a portion of the expense will be borne by the Colonies.

Glad to announce that the prospects of the country are bright.

Commerce are more hopeful than they have been for many years; regretted that no improvement had taken place in farming prospects, but hoped to discuss some means to meet the hindrance to its prosperity.

The owners of the S. S. *Benton* have appeared to the Privy Council against the Jud

ment lately delivered in their case against the *Fay Penang* for damages. The owners of the *Fay Penang* entered a cross-appeal to the court, and both will have to be heard by the Privy Council at Home. It will probably be a long time before the result is known.

The Penang Gazette says:—The Achinese continue fitfully to harass the Dutch residents and lose no opportunity of showing their bad faith. Recently near Oleheh, the chief support of the occupied territory, they captured a Dutch boat. The crew of the boat, which had incidentally ventured among them, a French steamer had been chartered to carry coal from Oleheh to Palo Bar. While the steamer lay at anchor in that port several of the sailors on board set to work fishing to pass the time. They were taken by the Achinese boat to an inlet not far from Achinese occupation. As soon as the police authorities heard of this they sent word to them immediately to return for fear of the being made captive. A steamer landed and dispatched to the spot soon brought the adventurous sailors back to the coast. The Frenchmen would be a welcome windfall to the Achinese. A second *Canton* affair would have been the unavoidable consequence.

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The Brit. N. Borneo Herald says:—Mr E. Abrahamson has returned from China a **Royalist**. We understand that he was received by His Excellency the Viceroy

Hong Chang at the Yamen, Hanchin, on the 15th October and that he concluded important contracts with the Chinese Government. Messrs E. E. Abrahamson & Co. have purchased two sailing vessels, and a small steamer of about 130 tons carrying capacity, fitted with all the latest appliances being built for them by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, and will be ready to steam to Sandakan in April—will be a convenient port to call the Borneo rivers as they will draw only 5 feet of water. The vessel is fitted with steam winches and will have sleeping accommodation for several European passengers, and will be able to go up the Borneo rivers.

are 101 feet length, 16 feet beam, 8 by 6 depth of hold, draft 5 feet loaded. We understand that the sailing vessels will be called respectively the *Governor Traill* and the *Sandakan*, and the steamer, the *Normanburgh*, after Lord Brassey's estate in England.

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The 'war scare' in Europe is kept up with reasonable diligence, but does not seem to make progress. Side by side with the accounts of the military preparations there are always accounts of a disposition to settle on easy terms. Most of the trouble comes from the existence of

officials or 'inspired' newspapers in the Continental capitals. Now and then—perhaps once in four or five years—they 'the straight tip' from their respective governments, and the result is that everything they say in the interval has a facility weight, although it may be pure speculation. A war scare is the best mud running up 'sales' known to them, and, as long as the armaments are large, war will always seem a not improbable contingency, and the 'movements' of troops near the frontier a good thing.

work up, either editorially or 'report ally.' The way Lord Randolph Chur ch has turned this to account by appearing the scene himself, shows what a talent he has for advertising, and what a man would be to push a ready-made cloth business. His visit to St Petersburg is no more important than that of any J. Smith, but all Europe is wondering what it means.—Nation



CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The nineteenth ordinary meeting of the China Fire Insurance Company was held this afternoon at the Office, of the Company. Hon. P. Ryrie presided and there were also present—Messrs H. Heppius, H. L. Dalrymple, W. H. Forbes, L. Poenecker, St. C. Michaelson, R. Lytton, directors, and Messrs J. Arranger, A. E. Vaucher, G. M. Bain, Graville Sharp, A. F. Smith, H. Wicking, J. Bradfield, W. Crawford, C. A. Ozorio, and J. B. Conghrie, Secretary.

The Chairman said the report had been before the meeting for some time and there was no necessity to read it, but he would like to make a few comments. The report made it well known that it was a fairly good report, especially considering the difficulties which Insurance Offices here had now to struggle with. It was his opinion that the opposition would not last, because he thought the rates which were now accepted by the representatives of Home offices would not be so high as the rates which these offices would find out in time that they would have to revert to higher ones. The business of Fire Insurance in China was one that had to be closely studied by those on the spot. He did not think those connected with London offices had got the interest in the matter to study the business as was often the case. The market was, however, very considerable here, especially in the present day. They had had an unusual number of fires but luckily as far as this office was concerned they had not been very serious, and he had to express the hope that the office of which they were shareholders and which they were closely allied with, would not have any serious losses. They would observe that the losses during 1887 were exceptionally heavy. In Hongkong alone there were 34 fires during the year, which was a large increase from the average of previous years, and at other places the number of fires showed an increase. Since the accounts were made up the Company had paid claims amounting to \$200,000 for the 1887, and for the Poochow fire. The amount taken for premium in 1887 showed a reduction of \$14,400 compared with 1886, which was

The retiring Directors, Messrs Thompson and Wee Boun Tuck, were re-elected, and also were the Auditors, Messrs Lysall and Gentle.

This concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting was then held, for the purpose of modifying and improving the Articles of Association, which make no provision that the gentlemen on the Board of Directors shall be shareholders. The Chairman said the alteration they had suggested was as follows:—

"That the number of every Director shall be the holding in his own right of shares or stocks of the Company of the nominal value of \$2,500, and notwithstanding anything in the Articles of Association to the contrary, no Director of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited, shall be a Director of the Company unless he is qualified."

Mr Gentle proposed that the above be incorporated in the Articles of Association of the Company.

Mr Smith asked what was meant by nominal value.

The Chairman replied that the nominal value of shares was \$100, so that a director must hold 25 shares under the proposed rule.

Mr. Thompson seconded the proposition which was carried unanimously.

It was understood that a meeting for the confirmation of the resolution would be held in about three weeks, but of that due notice will be given.

On the motion of Mr. W. B. Smith, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Directors and the Chairman.

best played this season, and one of the fastest, though the pools on the ground necessitated a good deal of wading.

The Club won the toss and Thompson chose the goal nearest the village. Collins kicked off at 4.50, and the ball being well returned a scrimmage was formed in the centre of the ground. The backs here did not much work for some time, until Haggan getting the ball passed to Potts, who well returned it to the half, and the players who made a good drop into the Club territory. The ball was soon back again in neutral ground, when Ball passed to Maclean, who made a brilliant run right to the 'Steelbacks' line, which Haggan then relieved amidst cheering by running through the thick of his opponents and ending up his run with a grand drop goal. The Regiment following up, and Potts kicked the Club to touch down. Some time after the ball was started again, Woodcock got a hold of it, and by a long, dour run took it right up to his opponents' goal line, where he was collared by Peddie. Hagganbooth again came to the rescue. He got the ball back, and by a grand run, a good run, and the 'Steelbacks' were on more free from immediate danger. A series of scrimmages now took place, Metcalfe, Powell, and Little for the Regiment, and Potts, Breen, and Haggan for the Club.

The play continued over even until Potts got away with the ball and by a fine piece of dribbling made the 'Red coats' touch down in goal. The backs on motion again, the 'long Duncans' indulged in some of his rushes, but was not allowed to proceed with them to any great

C. W. Bell
 C. E. Holworthy
Forwards.
 Ross Thompson
 C. H. Thompson
 E. Travers
 Brewin, R. E.
 G. H. Potts
 Vignoles, R. A.
 J. S. Legge

 58th REGIMENT.
Back.
 C. P. Pedler
2-Bucks.
 Johnstone
 Lloyd
 Negles
1-Bucks.
 Higginbotham
 Huntsman
Forwards.
 Collinson (Captain)
 Laird
 Powell
 Metcalfe
 Smith
 Pritchard
 Little
 Pte. Hunter
 Pte. Fianagan

Tuesday, Feb. 21.
 LARGE THEFT OF SUGAR.

The Attorney General said that prisoners formed the crew of a lighter, of which the first prisoner was the master. This lighter was employed in shipping and delivering sugar from ships for the Talook Sugar Kethery. In bringing raw sugar from the vessels to the shore, the lighters towed by the two holds which the lighter contained to be closed and locked under the superintendence of the master of the lighter, who then handed the keys to the sheriff. On the occasion in question something like \$50,000 worth of raw sugar was discharged from a vessel and put on board the lighter. The middle compartments of the sugar baskets which were placed in the hold of the hatches had ostensibly been closed down in the regular manner and were covered up with tarpaulin, and the keys had in due course been handed to the sheriff. On that night in question it would appear that some of the men went to the hold and there were aroused a few weeks before some of Messrs Butterfield and Swire's employees were on the lookout. They went on board the lighter, accompanied by a Chinese detective. When they got on board all was apparently quiet. One man, a Chinese prisoner, stepped up to the rail away from the middle compartments, the vessel arrested for stowing the sugar, the master's quarters and the men's places being at the ends. On going to examine the hatches of the middle compartments the party found that although the tarpaulin had been placed carefully over them, an opening had been made by cutting through one of the iron plates. Through this opening the party descended to the hold. They found a candle apparently newly extinguished and heard the sound of tramping among the sugar baskets. On getting a light they found a number of implements

Mr Robinson, pleaded not guilty, and the same jury were re-sworn.

The Attorney General said the prisoner in this case was indicted on two counts—first, that of burglariously stealing, and second, with receiving, a large quantity of cigars, and he had been found guilty on both counts. The complainant, who kept a cigar shop in Winklog Street, had also a store in Bonham Strand, where on the 27th of January last he had a large quantity of cigars. On going to his store on the morning of the 29th, he found that the door had been opened and 50.0.0 cigars stolen of the value of \$200. The complainant proceeded immediately to make inquiries, which had led him to find a large quantity of cigars that had been discovered by the police and which he identified as his. These cigars had been found in a sampan in the possession of accused.

The complainant stated that all the cigars had not been recovered, there being 117 boxes still wanting.

By Mr Robinson:—The cigars were a special brand, made for witness himself and could not be sold by any one but himself. They were part of a specially marked consignment, none of which he had sold.

Inspector Quin said that in consequence of what he heard, he went to look for the

found the six sacks of cigars in Court, consisting of 83 boxes and a number of bundles. Defendant, his wife, an old man and

Mr Robinson, in addressing the jury, said that the defence was as old as the crime. It was simply that the man was hired to take these goods, innocently ; and there was no evidence before the jury to warrant them in believing that they could not believe the statement.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, by a majority of six to one, of receiving the goods knowing them to have been stolen.

The Sessions then adjourned till Friday.

NOTE ISSUE IN THE STRAITS.

The *Straits Times* has been publishing the correspondence that has passed during the last two or three years between the Government of the Straits Settlements and the Colonial Office, and comments on it as follows :

The Government Note Issue correspondence just published in our columns, gives a clearer view of this question, complicated as it is with the subject of a one-dollar note, now, towards. The arguments for and against changes in the existing order of things are fairly set forth, and have due weight given them. A perusal of the correspondence shows at a glance the trend of the different opinions mooted, and the probable result of the course pursued. The late Governor and his Executive Council leave no doubt what line of policy they would have adopted. They emphatically declared in favour of a Government note issue, inclusive of a one-dollar note, as the best means to meet the emergency requirements of the day. The

have due weight attached to it when the question at issue becomes ripe enough for settlement. The subject of one dollar notes was then admitted to be not one calling for immediate consideration, though the advantages attending their issue were manifest enough. The failure to secure British dollars has given the subject a turn, which increases the necessity for them as an element of the local currency. We hope that when these kindred questions come before the Legislative Council, they will be thrashed out and decided in accordance with the public weal.

THE PROGRESS OF BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

In an article on the progress of British North Borneo during the last year, our Sandakan contemporary says :—

Timber.—Next to planting, the Timber industry is rapidly pushing ahead, and during the last year the business of Messrs E. E. Abrahamson & Co., has greatly increased and enlarged. Mr. Abrahamson, who has been in the Company, the Company, has lately returned from Tientsin, where he has succeeded in getting some valuable contracts from the Chinese Government, after some interviews with the Minister Li

new Liverpool-built ship, which has twice carried a cargo from here to China. This fine barque is to be re-christened the

industry applications have been received in the Lands Office for 40,000 acres.

Ministry.—In mining matters we have to note the arrival of Messrs Skerchley and Allard, representing the British Borneo Gold Mining Company. Mr Skerchley has made a flying trip to the Segama and Bolo rivers in the northward of Mount Batu, and from what he has seen of that part of the river he is sanguine of a field near the head of the river that will pay.

Captain Beeston with a party of four Europeans left Sandakan in August last to explore the sources of the Segama. His report is not yet received, but it is the opinion of the whole party that an extensive and payable field is awaiting development; the extent of which it is at present impossible to estimate. Above a certain point on the main river, and from thence to the head waters the country is composed of slates, dolerites and porphyries, the quartzite and granite formations, and the effluents, creeks, gullies and ravines carrying gold in addition to the main river, while quartz reefs carrying gold are in great numbers and of large size. The expedition were four months away from Sandakan, returning in the middle of December.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the "Paris Figaro," of a valuable remedy for various febrile, physical exhaustion, and other malarial diseases. This discovery was made by a missionary. One of the missionaries saved him from a miserable existence as an early grave. We learn that the Rev. Joseph Holmes, B. missionary, Mandou, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self addressed stamped envelope.

larger portion of which is practically unlaboured waiting only for capital and labour to be employed. It is a station to which British North Borneo possesses all the elements of as great or even a greater success than has attended the other countries I have referred to. To bring about this result the Government are offering Chinese Immigrants free grants of land, and also to Chinese capitalists land on specially favorable terms for the cultivation of Gambier and Pepper.

One of our friends is most opportunely as I believe the country is on the eve of a rapid development in Tobacco planting, but so exorbitant are the prices charged by the brokers in Singapore that it is imperative if Tobacco planting is to succeed that their monopoly must be broken through. I trust the Commissioners will help us in this matter so that we may get a supply of coolies from the Government, and that the Government will give satisfaction that their countrymen will be well treated here, and I feel sure that after the restrictive legislation which our friends have encountered in Australia, Java and elsewhere, the policy of our Government must commend itself to them. Amongst other inducements is the undoubted existence of a large ariferous district in

to encourage intending Gold miners to come to this country. We are about to arrange for direct steam communication with Hongkong, and on this subject I will

led upon, the support of the Chinese Government, and the co-operation of General Wong Yung Ho, Mr. P. U. Tzing and the other members of the Imperial Commission whose friendly remarks and suggestions, I have no doubt but that British North Borneo will develop into a Colony of vast importance, in which thousands of Chinese will live in comfort and affluence.

The toast having been heartily received, General Wong Yung Ho rose and replying to the toast of the King and Queen on behalf of himself and his colleagues he was very much obliged to Governor Crocker and the other Officials of the British North Borneo Government there present for the very cordial manner in which the toast of their healths had been received. He was greatly glad to hear that British North Borneo had such an enlightened Government, and heard when still farther, of this gentleman's ability and kindly disposition, and he was glad to be able on the spot to confirm these reports; his policy was a very different one to that pursued in other countries; in Queensland for instance the landings for one year were 100,000 and recently the very same Government, not satisfied with this, are endeavouring to get the amount increased to 2100, besides an annual poll-tax of £10. This he considered a disgrace to so-called western civilization. British North Borneo is a lovely and interesting country containing resources that will soon be brought into use. The Government in the East, Mandak Bay he considered to be as fine as Sydney harbour. The main thing, that was wanted to develop the country was cheap labour, and he and his colleagues must with much pleasure see the expected great connection with China. With regard to the problem of Chinese labourers coming down to North

Other speeches were made and toasts drunk and the party broke up at a rather advanced hour after a very pleasant and somewhat jovial evening.

At the same time at the Chinese Merchants of the place gave a dinner to the Commissioners at which the Governor and several of the leading Officials were present. The chair was taken by Mr Fung Ming Shan, and for the course of the evening several very interesting speeches were made by General Yung Ho, Mr Fung Ming Shan, and Mr Mr. Luang Tsung. The latter, who is of whom spoken in the present English; the latter gentleman also favored the Company with several English ballads and operatic songs delivered in a rich baritone voice.

On the evening of the 24th the Chinese Merchants again entertained the Commissioners and were escorted on board the *s. s. Hong Yun* amidst much cheering of guns and cracking of Chinese fireworks.

Quotations

Honolulu, February 21.

OPIMUM—New Patna, cash...	500/502½
„ Old „ cash...	491½ to 492½
„ New Benares, cash...	491½ to 492½
„ Old „ cash...	500
„ New Malwa, cash...	500
„ Allowance, Teels...	Noms to 8
„ Old Malwa, cash...	580
„ Allowance, Teels...	16
„ Persian, Oily, cash	600/
„ Allowance, Teels...	10/32
„ Persian, Paper tied	640
„ Allowance, Teels...	10

Exchange.

HONGKONG, February 21.

London—	
Bank, Wire,	3/11
„ On demand,	3/11
„ 30 days' sight,	3/12
„ 4 months' sight,	3/12
Credits, 4	3/12
Documentary, 4 months' sight,	3/2
(in) Paris—	
On demand,	3.92
Credits, 4 months' sight,	4.00
(in) New York—	
On demand,	76½
Credits, 60 days' sight,	76½
On Bombay—	
Wire,	220½
On demand,	221
On Calcutta—	
Wire,	226½
On demand,	2.21
On Shanghai—	
On demand,	72½
30 days' sight,	72½
60 days' sight,	73
Gold Loan, 100 Ru.	35.05
Sovereigns,	\$6.38

Temperature.
Taken at Messrs. Kalamazoo & Co.'s - Premises.

<p>Barometer—9 A.M. 30.10 Do. 1 P.M. 30.07 Do. 4 P.M. 30.12</p>		
<p>Thermometer—9 A.M. 52 Do. 1 P.M. 58 Do. 4 P.M. 58</p>		
<p>Do. (Wet bulb) 1 P.M. 55 Do. 1 P.M. 55 Do. 4 P.M. 55</p>		
<p>Do. Maximum 58 Do. Minimum over night 51</p>		

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.
 AT 4 P.M. TO-DAY.
 — Barometer 30.06
 Temperature 57
 Humidity 75
 Direction of Wind
 Force 0
 Weather o
 Hongkong Observatory, Feb. 21, 1888.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.							
FEBRUARY 20.—AT 4 P.M.							
Station.	Barometer reduced to sea level and 32° Falt.	Temperature.	Humidity.	Wind. Direction.	Force.	Weather.	Rain amount precipitated.
Wl'ostock.....	30.20	1	—	N	3	b	—
Tokio.....	29.92	1	—	N	0	b	—
Nagasaki.....	30.23	—	—	NNW	3	b	—
Shanghai.....	30.43	42	75	—	3	b	—
Amoy.....	30.22	58	80	NE	3	b	—
Hongkong.....	30.09	51	90	NE	4	o	—
Haiphong.....	30.04	61	55	NNW	2	b	—
Bolnaso.....	29.98	79	—	N	3	b	—
Manila.....	29.95	87	50	E	2	o	—

FEBRUARY 21.—AT 10 A.M.							
W'lostock	\$0.28	2	70	n	2	b	—
Tokio							
Nagasaki	\$0.30			NNK	2		
Shanghai	\$0.29	41	83	NE	1	a	
Amoy							
Hongkong	\$0.15	56	75	WNW	1	a	0.68
Haitphong	\$0.12	58	74		0	a	
Bolinas	\$0.06	77		SW	1	b	
Manila							

The barometer has fallen along the coast and gradients for N.E. winds are moderating. Overcast, cold and rather damp weather prevails.

W. DORRICK

Government Astronomer.
Hongkong Observatory, February 21.

1. **BAROMETER**, reduced to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and to the level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths.
2. **TEMPERATURE**, in the shade in degrees, Fahrenheit.
3. **HUMIDITY**, in percentage of saturation, the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.
4. **DIRECTION OF WIND**, to two points.
5. **FORCE OF WIND**, according to Beaufort Scale.
6. **STATE OF WEATHER**, 4 lines each, a detached cloud, a drifting rain, a fog, a shower, a hail, a lightning, a overcast, a passing shower, a squally rain, a snow, a thunder, a visibility, a dew (wet).
7. **RAIN**, in inches, tenths and hundredths.

SUN AND TIDE TABLE FOR HONGKONG.					
(From The Hongkong Almanack.)					
FEBRUARY.					
	HIGH WATER.			LOW.	
Day of Month.	Morn.	Aft.	Rises.	Sets.	
	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.
18	0.10	0.52	6.31	5.07	
19	0.17	0.58	6.30	5.07	
20	2.41	2.56	6.30	5.58	
21	3.17	3.47	6.29	5.50	
22	6.21	4.54	6.28	5.09	
23	7.6	5.54	6.27	6.0	

High water at Whampoa: 2 hrs. 50 mins. later than at Hongkong; at the Mouth of the River: 3 hrs. 15 mins.; at the Salt Pits: 3 hrs. 30 mins.; at Shamen: 3 hrs. 45 mins.

Moon—First Quarter 20d. 9h. 56m. morning.

